Adjournment motion re. the Special Finance Committee Report.

President.—There is an adjournment motion of Mr. C. J. Mathew. It is to discuss an urgent matter of public importance, *viz.*, "The promise made by the Government to issue orders on the Special Finance Committee report in Chingam last or very early in the year 1105 and which has not been carried out yet". I should like to observe whether it is advantageous to take up the adjournment motion, this being the concluding day of the sitting. Generally, we take such motions in the evening, and being the last day some of the Members represented to me that they would like to have the adjournment motion taken up early. So I just bring it to you whether it is not an unfavourable day for taking this up.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—This being a serious matter, all the Members will be in their seats. I don't think the Members will go as usual.

President.—I shall consider it on its merits. I had occasion to consider this on a previous occasion. The Member for Kattur, Mr. A. L. Antony, brought forward an adjournment motion. In what way is this different from that?

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—There is some difference. The Hon'ble Secretary did make a promise in this House that it would be certainly announced either in Chingam, if not, as corrected by you, Sir, early in 1105.

President.—The statement made by me is that I hope that final orders will not be delayed further than the commencement of the next year.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Four months are over.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—May I put in a word of explanation, Sir? This question cropped up in connection with a Legislative Council question, question No. 95 of the last Budget Session. The answer was in the name of the Secretary to the Diwan. The question referred to the passing of orders on the Special Finance Committee's report. The Finance Member some two days ago had stated in connection with the same subject that it is almost finished or something to that effect. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar referred to that, and asked if there is not some discrepancy between the statement of the Secretary in his present reply and the statement made by the Finance Member. And then I said by way of answer to that supplementary question that the decision on the subject has been finally stated by the President himself in his remarks that orders on the Committee's report will be passed in the first week of Chingam which is coming. Then the President intervened

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and said "what I said was the concluding stages in the consideration of this report have been reached and that orders will be passed on the commencement of the ensuing year", i. e., when I made the statement by way of answer to a supplementary question put by Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar, the President intervened and corrected by saying "at the commencement of the ensuing year." So what I did on the occasion referred to in the adjournment motion was simply to make an allusion to the President's opening remarks. I did not make any further remark or promise.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I quite agree.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I must finish. Therefore, I did not make any promise at all in this Council. I simply made a reference to the President's opening statement by way of an answer to a supplementary question. I just referred to the President's speech and said at the commencement of the ensuing year. The President also had made only a general remark. There was no definite promise or the like that it will be forthcoming in the first week of Chingam.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I don't accuse the Secretary of any breach of promise. His statement in the House, whether it is a promise or call it by some other name, was to the effect that it would come out in Chingam. The President intervened and corrected by saying at the commencement of next year.

President.—By the commencement of next year, I had reason to think that orders would be passed. But somehow or other the consideration is not over. But how do you differentiate the circumstances under which the previous ruling was passed and the present circumstances? That is what I want.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Times without number we have been crying in this House, and it has been delayed and delayed, and later on, the Secretary made a statement in this House that it will be announced early in Chingam.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I did not make any statement like that. I referred only to the President's remark.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—We will refer to the President's remark.

President.—We are in sympathy with the grievances of the low paid subordinates. Why do you think that you alone are interested? When the matter is in your hands, you will find the difficulty. Now, you are in the position of critics and you say that we are taking a lot of time. When you work at the thing, you will understand that what we have stated the other day is quite correct. The matter cannot be disposed of so very easily. We are the actors and you are the critics. When the thing is in your hands, you will know the real truth. Whatever it is, I

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may point out that we are very sympathetic. Somehow or other there is some delay, I must admit. It cannot be said it is an intentional delay.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I don't attribute any such motive. You may be aware that we are all pressed by these low-paid subordinates why you are not passing orders.

President.—We all understand. We feel that position keenly.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Is the end in sight anywhere?

President.—The consideration is not completely finished.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—May I suggest that at least in the case of low paid officers something may be done although you may be considering all the recommendations together. Hardly any non-official Member of the Legislative Council can approach any officer who is a low paid servant without being bombarded.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Hungry mouths have no patience. There is no exaggeration.

President.—You may say 'why do you suspect the Government? They are looking into the matter'.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—They don't suspect anybody. They simply clamour, "What are you going to do? What is the earthly use of your going to the Council? We are starving".

President.—If I were in your position I would say 'why do you suspect about our earnestness. We are putting questions. Government also, we have reason to think, are interested in this matter'.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—Some people will retire before orders are passed.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—We are aware that the Government are sympathetic in the matter but they are not energetic.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Since the advent of the Special Finance Committee even the regular promotions were kept back and every time an applicant complains the Government say "wait till the Finance Committee report comes". And all this delay! They say 'you are responsible for this delay. Had it not been for this Special Finance Committee we would have got what we are entitled to get. We don't want anything additional. Even the things we are entitled to we cannot get'.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—We, who have no responsibility, have to shoulder the responsibility.

President.—If you have no responsibility, don't shoulder it.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—The Government servants inside the offices put the responsibility on our shoulders.

President.—You tell them you have no responsibility.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I told them many a time, "Don't think that we are responsible". But they don't believe that.

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President.—Don't hear them.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—We have the responsibility of pressing it again and again.

President.—By all means.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—The only right we have is to speak in this House and nothing else. That is the only right conferred by the Regulation.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Four months are over since the commencement of the year. You said by the commencement of the year orders will be passed.

President.—We are on the question of the difference between a set of circumstances. When Mr. A. L. Antony brought an adjournment motion, I passed a ruling that it is not a matter of urgent public importance. On what ground should this be distinguished from that?

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—In the light of the President's undertaking a statement was made in the House that it would be announced before the commencement of 1105, and as four months have passed and as nothing is done, I believe it is a very urgent matter of public importance.

Mr. A. L. Antony.—To a reconsideration of this point I shall have no objection.

Mr. C J Mathew.—Subordinate officers, being dispirited and dejected, are not executing the work properly because a weak mentality never works.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—We are also aware of some of the difficulties of passing orders. We are also aware that something can be done at least for the lowest paid men. As regards the bigger men let them wait.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—First serve the biggest, then serve the lowest. That is the order of the day.

President.—I want to know the difference.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—The ground is different. If you will kindly allow me, I shall make it clear.

President.—I have no objecttion.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—People have been living on expectation, I don't say it is a promise because there is no consideration. People who had been worried with waiting got some new hope. They began to live in hope. That hope is gone and four months have elapsed. You may be sure, Sir, you may take it from us, if you don't know it from anybody, that there is very serious discontent among the low paid. In fact the discontent is not in the sense of a revolt but real heart burning. They cannot make both ends meet. So that the servants are suffering and they will suffer more. If the suffering of the servants is not urgent, what would be urgent? You, Sir, as President of the

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House, might probably explain it away. Suppose you are not Diwan, Sir, for one moment. Would you turn down this urgent matter in the circumstances? That is for you to consider.

President.—So that my decision on this adjournment motion is coloured by the fact of my being the Diwan.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I do not want to make an allegation. Forget that you are the Diwan and only consider the fact that almost all the non-official Members unanimously report to the President that in the country there is strong feeling among the low paid officials that they are not being properly treated in this matter and they are not doing their work properly. What would you do as a President and only as a President? Forget that you are the Diwan. That is the question. We don't want to complain against the Diwan-Presidentship. Probably it is inevitable. The decisions of the President are coloured. That must be the impression. In this case at least, please rise up above the position. We want the thing to do done. We are not criticising.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—We are here to criticise.

President.—In the last budget we provided 2 lakhs of rupees on this account. Is it simply a paper entry? Figures worked out came like that.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Will you kindly remember that we don't accuse you of malice at all?

President.—The idea is to give retrospective effect from the 1st of Chingam. Inevitable circumstances prevented us from passing orders till now.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Kindly remember that I don't, at any rate, accuse you of any bad intention. There is a famous saying that an unpleasant place in the other world is paved with good intentions. Good intentions are not enough. We want energetic action. Would it be wrong to represent the grievances of the public and to bring this matter strongly before the attention of the Government by means of an adjournment motion? Would it be right for a President, who is not the Diwan, not to allow the people to ventilate their views and place the matter before the Government? Don't think that here we are trying to take any and every opportunity to criticise the Government, though our function is to criticise the Government. It is by criticism alone that progress can be made.

President.—I have realised that.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I remember although you have turned down the adjournment motion of Mr. Antony five months have passed—a long period. So that what I submit is a chance may be given to this House to make its voice heard.

President.—Delay is occurring.

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Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—There would be a chance to strengthen the hands of the Government if there is any obstruction. The Council strongly recommends. The matter may be rushed through. Irrespective of all barriers the Government must sit up and get through the work. The matter may be considered in that manner. We do not want to take any action or to criticise the Government. We want to do our duty. I submitted it is the uiterior fact, that, wherever any Legislative Council Member happens to go into an office, he is asked how long were you in the Legislative Council, what are you going to do, is it enough if you earn your Rs. 5, etc. There they are right. We feel we have not done enough. The matter may be carefully considered and allowed to be discussed unless you are justified in saying that in a fairly near period there is a sure chance of the report coming in. We want only that. You might say, "Look here. The thing will be through within 20 days, 30 days or 40 days. Your poor fellows are likely to get something". We want only those people should have a definite hope.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Even in an answer given in to-day's question, the Government says it cannot stipulate any time limit.

President.—I said by the commencement of next year it would be done. It was not done. What is the use of again saying that ?

Mr. A. S. Harihara Ayyar.—With your permission I should like to make a few remarks. I was also confronted with the same remarks by the officers wherever I went. But I have given them an answer that the enquiry of the Special Finance Committee began as long ago as three or four years when conditions were quite different from those that we have just now. The prices of all food stuffs have now gone down by more than 25 to 30 per cent. So your pay has been increased by nature by 20 per cent. We, the junior members of the *tarawad*, are not responsible for the finance. We have recommended to the authorities in charge of the finance that something ought to be done at the time when there was a real grievance. All those grievances have now gone. You must be content with what you are getting, (*shame*) and if the Government favourably considers and gives you something, you may take that additional sum as well.

President.—Am I to understand that no more low paid servants came to bother you ?

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—After this nobody.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Knowing his attitude they might not.

Mr. A. S. Harihara Ayyar.—When the right answer was given to them, they are content.

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Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—May I know what was their rejoinder?

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—Not by words.

Mr. A. S. Harihara Ayyar.—If we dance attendance they may say something. If we speak the true facts in the face they will keep quiet.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—So you are against.

Mr. A. S. Harihara Ayyar.—Not that I am against. If the Government is pleased to give them, let them give. We need not blame the Government simply because they take time for consideration.

President.—What about the question of the admissibility of the hardship caused?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Is the decision on the motion brought by Mr. A. L. Antony going to be reconsidered?

President.—Regarding the question of hardship whether there would be immediate chance.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Whether there is a fair chance of something being done in the near future.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I cannot state positively.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—What do you believe?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Is it enough if I say what I believe? Will the Members be satisfied?

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—That will be something.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—The Secretary is one of the Members of the Royal Family.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I am not here as a member of the Royal Family. I am simply here as an officer representing Government in the administrative capacity.

President.—With the designation of the Secretary, nothing of the Royal Family.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—When the Secretary stands up we cannot forget that he is a member of the Royal Family.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—You may remember, but don't take into consideration that capacity.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—With regard to the capacity there is no difference of opinion. The Secretary is Secretary only.

President.—Though I am the Diwan, for the purposes of this Council I am the President. He cannot say anything on account of that capacity as member of the Royal Family.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Please go on.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I cannot state positively when exactly it will be published or what exactly the result of that would be.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—We have not asked that.

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Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The Hon'ble Member for Trippunittura said that at least the case of the low paid servants may be taken up and disposed off. I cannot state definitely whether the Government can take up that portion of the report by itself and dispose it off apart from the rest. I don't know whether the whole thing should be handled simultaneously or whether it could be handled separately. If it could be handled separately, I will say the Government will have no objection.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—May I know who all will be included in low paid grades ?

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Below Rs. 100.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—What is the possible time limit ?

President.—There will be brisk working at it during Christmas Holidays. If all things go right, we must see it published within one month. Before the next meeting it will be published.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Therefore it will be published early in 1930. So you have acted according to your promise that it will be published early at the commencement of the next year.

President.—The point is we must expedite it. Times without number I have received anonymous petitions using the most violent language.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—All the Members get a copy of it.

President.—After all it is a case of the poor people and we must have sympathy towards them. On the 70th Birthday of His Highness the Maharaja an announcement was made that the minimum pay of the servants shall be Rs. 10. Besides Government servants drawing less than Rs. 20 also get an allowance of Rs. 2. A number of things are clubbed together in addition to the question of pay, and complications arise with regard to them. That is the difficulty. Some Members are under the impression that the whole thing will be recorded and somebody has told me that the Diwan is not sympathetic in this matter. All these are not correct. It will be finished before we next meet.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—In the light of the assurance that orders on the Special Finance Committee report would be passed before the next meeting—at least with regard to the pay of those officers who draw Rs. 100 and less—I withdraw the motion with leave of the House.

President.—The orders on the Special Finance Committee's report will be passed before the next meeting commences, that is, 6th Kumbham 1105.

On this assurance given by the Government the adjournment motion is withdrawn.

The motion was considered withdrawn.

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